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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/522,087	03/10/2000	Randall D. Boyd	24200	5685
22465	7590	05/19/2004	EXAMINER	
PITTS AND BRITTIAN P C P O BOX 51295 KNOXVILLE, TN 37950-1295			ODOM, CURTIS B	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2634	

DATE MAILED: 05/19/2004

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/522,087

Applicant(s)

BOYD ET AL.

Examiner

Curtis B. Odom

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 10 March 2000.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-19 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,2,4,5,10-12,14 and 15 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 3,6-9,13 and 16-19 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 10 March 2000 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 10-12, 14, and 15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Harrison (U. S. Patent No. 5, 576, 972),

Regarding claim 1, Harrison discloses a system (Fig. 1, column 1, lines 15-22) for monitoring activity along a bounded area, the system comprising:

at least one sensor (Fig. 1, blocks 11-16, column 6, line 65-column 7, line 15) in communication with a wire, the at least one sensor for measuring local activity as a measured local activity signal and transmitting the measured local activity signal through a wire;

a gateway (Fig. 1, block 18, column 7 lines 39-63) electrically connected to the wire, the gateway for managing transmissions through the wire;

a digital signal processing device (Fig. 1, block 20, column 8, line 51-column 9, line 23) in electrical communication with the gateway, the digital signal processing device for applying a digital filter to each the measured local activity signal to produce a filtered activity

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signal, wherein the operation of reducing the incoming signal information to particular activation level patterns (column 8, lines 51-56) is filtering the incoming signal;

a processing device (Fig. 1, block 20, column 8, line 52-column 9, line 23) in electrical communication with the gateway and the digital signal processing device; the processing device for sequencing operation of the monitoring system, communicating with the at least one sensor, and identifying the filtered activity signal to produce an activity identification (identity of target);

a power supply (column 7, lines 39-53) providing power to the system, the power supply electrically connected to the gateway for transmitting power through the wire to the sensors; and

an indicator (Fig. 1, block 28, column 9, lines 24-42) responsive to the processing device for communicating the activity identification.

Harrison does not disclose a single conductor wire for defining the bounded area. However, Harrison does disclose an array of sensors used to define a boundary around an area (column 2, lines 44-62 and column 10, lines 45-53). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made that a simple wire could have been connected through the array of sensors to further enforce the boundaries of the established perimeter. Thus, adding a wire to further enforce the boundaries already defined by the sensors does not constitute patentability.

Regarding claim 2, which inherits the limitations of claim 1, Harrison discloses an external interface in communication with the processing device, the external interface

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configured for interfacing the monitoring system with a conventional residential and light commercial security system (Fig. 1, block 32, column 9, line 43-column 10, line 44).

Regarding claim 4, which inherits the limitations of claim 1, Harrison discloses the at least one sensor is individually addressable (Fig. 1, element 17, column 7, lines 39-53), wherein each sensor can be individually addressed through the individual lead wires.

Regarding claim 5, which inherits the limitations of claim 1, Harrison discloses the at least one sensor is selected from the group consisting of at least seismic, infrared, and audio sensors (column 6, line 65-column 7, line 15).

Regarding claim 10, Harrison discloses a system (Fig. 1, column 1, lines 15-22) for monitoring activity along a bounded area, the system comprising:

- at least one sensor (Fig. 1, blocks 11-16, column 6, line 65-column 7, line 15) in communication with a wire, the at least one sensor for measuring local activity as a measured local activity signal and transmitting the measured local activity signal through a wire;

- a gateway (Fig. 1, block 18, column 7 lines 39-63) electrically connected to the wire, the gateway for managing transmissions through the wire;

- a comparison device (Fig. 1, block 20, column 9, lines 9-65) in electrical communication with the gateway, the comparison device for comparing the measured local activity signal to at least one reference signal and producing a comparison result;

- a processing device (Fig. 1, block 20, column 9, lines 9-65) in electrical communication with the gateway and the comparison device; the processing device for sequencing operation of the monitoring system, communicating with the at least one sensor, and identifying the comparison result to produce an activity identification;

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a power supply (column 7, lines 39-53) providing power to the system, the power supply electrically connected to the gateway for transmitting power through the wire to the sensors; and

an indicator (Fig. 1, block 28, column 9, lines 24-42) responsive to the processing device for communicating the activity identification.

Harrison does not disclose a single conductor wire for defining the bounded area. However, Harrison does disclose an array of sensors used to define a boundary around an area (column 2, lines 44-62 and column 10, lines 45-53). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made that a simple wire could have been connected through the array of sensors to further enforce the boundaries of the established perimeter. Thus, adding a wire to further enforce the boundaries already defined by the sensors does not constitute patentability.

Regarding claim 11, which inherits the limitations of claim 10, Harrison discloses a memory device is electrical communication with the comparison device for storing the at least one reference signal (Fig. 1, block 26, column 9, lines 3-65), wherein the reference signal (threshold) is stored in the neural network computer in the graphics display program.

Regarding claim 12, which inherits the limitations of claim 10, Harrison discloses the at least one sensor is individually addressable (Fig. 1, element 17, column 7, lines 39-53), wherein each sensor can be individually addressed through the individual lead wires.

Regarding claim 14, which inherits the limitations of claim 10, Harrison discloses the at least one sensor is selected from the group consisting of at least seismic, infrared, and audio sensors (column 6, line 65-column 7, line 15).

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Regarding claim 15, which inherits the limitations of claim 10, Harrison discloses an external interface in communication with the processing device, the external interface configured for interfacing the monitoring system with a conventional residential and light commercial security system (Fig. 1, block 32, column 9, line 43-column 10, line 44).

Allowable Subject Matter

3. Claims 3, 6-9, 13, and 16-19 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Conclusion


4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Curtis B. Odom whose telephone number is 703-305-4097. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday- Friday, 8-5.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Stephen Chin can be reached on 703-305-4714. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Curtis Odom
May 12, 2004



STEPHEN CHIN
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